White Pine BRC NW Pac.

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BLISTER RUST CONTROL, MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, 1952

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The 1952 white pine blister rust control program in Mount Rainier National Park was completed as scheduled. The work consisted of eliminating ribes concentrations on cliffs and precipitous slopes between Sunrise Park and the White River campground. The removal of these ribes will alleviate damage to the whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis) in the Sunrise Park area above and to the western white pine (P. monticola) in the White River campground area below. A plan formulated with Park Service officials permitted all crews to work in high priority areas throughout the summer and still be readily available for fire duty. The accomplishments of the new camp superintendent and checker were commendable. The crew was well organized and ribes eradication methods were used to best advantage.

Ribes eradication. Acres worked, 610; man-days, 670; ribes removed per acre, 62. A superintendent, a checker, and 16 laborers were employed. Ribes eradication started June 17 and terminated September 3. The crews were trained with the aid of illustrated charts and practical application of methods in the field. The dragline system was used almost exclusively because the precipitous topography, windfalls, and dense brush made the use of chemical methods impractical.

Checking and control status. Areas worked were checked and control status classification made accordingly. A large portion of the 1952 work was classified in the rework category because of the large number of ribes removed and probable future germination of ribes seed. Table 4 shows control status classifications for both the White River and Silver Forest areas.

Blister rust infection. A disease survey was run on the Longmire-Silver Forest area in the vicinity of Ricksaker Point and Canyon Rim. Western white pine (P. monticola) reproduction less than 5 feet in height was examined with the following results: Number of trees examined, 228; number of trees infected, 32; number of trees with trunk cankers, 9. The yougest canker found was in 1948 wood, probably of 1950 origin. The last ribes eradication on the area was done in late 1950.

A disease survey was run on the White River control unit in the north portion of Sunrise Park. Whitebark pine (P. albicaulis) of reproduction size was examined with the following results: Number of trees examined, 295; number of trees infected, 154; number of trees with trunk cankers, 7. The youngest infection noted was in 1948 wood, probably of 1950 origin. The last ribes eradication influencing the area sampled was done in 1951 and 1952. Sixty man-days were spent on canker elimination in this area during inclement weather. Canker elimination as performed in 1952 in conjunction with maintenance work should reduce future losses.

Longmire-Silver Forest. Maintenance work previously scheduled for 1952 but delayed by more urgent control work necessary in the White River area should be done in 1953.

An inspection made in 1952 showed additional broadcast spraying of Ribes aceri-folium seedlings must be done in the power line clearings. It was also noted considerable Hi-Fog gun work in conjunction with the one-man dragline system will be required to eliminate R. bracteosum seedlings occurring in the vicinity of Narada Falls.

The following recommendations are made to accomplish the work: A superintendent (GS-6), a checker (GS-5), and 15 crewmen for a 3-month period beginning approximately June 15.

The above estimate is sufficient to take care of time lost from rain, fire, crew reduction, and other unforeseen circumstances. The estimate is made on the basis of a 6-day work week.

RESULTS

The following tables show expenditures, results of the 1952 field work, and accumulative results of work performed to date:

TABLE 1

CLASSIFIED EXPENDITURES, CALENDAR YEAR 1952
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Item	National Park Service
Personal Services	$12,233.37
Travel & Transp.	56.00
Communication Service	5.37
Rentals (equipment)	470.50
Contractual Services	192.43
Supplies & Materials	181.58
Salary, Checker	980.50
Total	$14,119.75

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TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF RIBES ERADICATION
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, 1952

Area	Working	Acres	Man-Days	Ribes Species		Total Ribes	Per Acre	
				Ribes lacustre	Ribes viscosissimum		Man-Days	Ribes
White River	Other	610	670	35,000	3,000	38,000	1.10	62

Not included above: 60 man-days - canker elimination

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF RIBES ERADICATION
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, 1930-1952
(Net Control Area)

Area	Working				Man-Days	Total Ribes	Spray Gallons	Per Acre	
	First Acres	Second Acres	Other Acres	Total Acres				Man-Days	Ribes
Longmire-Silver Forest	1,300	1,290	3,700	6,290	7,250	636,000	370	1.15	101
White River	3,200	3,010	8,130	14,340	10,510	996,000	3,450	.73	69
Total	4,500	4,300	11,830	20,630	17,760	1,632,000	3,820	.86	79

Chemical work included above:

Working	Acres	Man-Days	Spray Gallons
Second	60	60	180
Other	610	690	3,640
Total	670	750	3,820

TABLE 4

STATUS OF BLISTER RUST CONTROL, 1952
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Area	Control Unit Total Acres	Maintenance Acres	Work Required		
			Initial Acres	Rework Acres	Post Check Acres
Longmire-Silver Forest	1,300	930		370	
White River	3,200	2,480		630	90
Total	4,500	3,410		1,000	90